

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7699

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA US KS
SUBJ: CARTER-PARK SUMMIT MEETING

REF: A. STATE 215378, B. SEOUL 7698

1. I AGREE WITH WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT THAT OUR MAJOR
LEVERAGE POINT AT THIS TIME IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUMMIT
MEETING, AND I HAD THIS VERY MUCH IN MIND IN DRAFTING
OUR LATEST ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS ON THE
HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT (REF B).

2. GIVEN THE PRESENT MOOD HERE AND THE PROPOSED LEVEL OF
OUR INITIAL DISCUSSION, I BELIEVE WE MUST AVOID BEING TOO
BLUNT WITH PRESIDENT PARK. MOREOVER, I DOUBT THAT HE
WILL WISH TO SEE ME PRIOR TO DELIVERY OF KIM DONG-JO'S
RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS. THE INITIAL RESPONSE
MAY FALL SHORT AND REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE CLARIFICATION.
THUS, AFTER THE KIM DONG-JO RESPONSE IS RECEIVED AND WE
HAVE HAD TIME TO DIGEST IT, AND PROVIDED WE ARE STILL IN
BUSINESS AT THAT TIME, I WILL REQUEST A MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT, PICKING UP ON THE INVITATION HE EXTENDED WHEN
I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS.

3. IN LAUNCHING THE TOPIC OF SUMMIT/HUMAN RIGHTS WITH
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PRESIDENT PARK, I INTEND TO AVOID DIRECT LINKAGE WHILE
AT THE SAME TIME DEVELOPING THE TOTAL CONCEPT. SPECIFI-
CALLY I PROPOSE:

A. TO REMIND THE PRESIDENT OF HIS UNDERTAKING IN HIS
LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER TO TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE HUMAN
RIGHTS PERFORMANCE IN KOREA AS CONDITIONS PERMIT. I WILL

EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO A SENSE OF PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE AND NOTE THE SPECIAL CONCERN ASSOCIATED WITH EMERGENCY MEASURES WHICH, EVEN IF NOT ENFORCED, DOWNPLAY MUCH OF THE DEMOCRACY NOW OPEN TO KOREAN PEOPLE.

B. TO SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE IF SOME MOVE COULD BE MADE IN ADVANCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, WHICH ARE ATTRACTING ATTENTION IN KOREA AND WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED IN THE US. THIS WOULD PUT THE ELECTIONS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT.

C. SEPARATED FROM (A) AND (B) BY DISCUSSION OF OTHER TOPICS, TO TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN DISCUSSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SUMMIT MEETING, POSSIBLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1979. I WILL NOTE THAT DECISIONS ON BOTH THE TIME AND PLACE MUST BE TAKEN IN LIGHT OF VARIOUS FACTORS WE WOULD BOTH HAVE TO CONSIDER. THESE WOULD INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. I PLAN TO STRESS THAT, IF SUCH A MEETING IS TO PRODUCE THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS, IT IS NECESSARY THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP AT THE TIME NOT BE CLOUDED BY UNRESOLVED ISSUES.

D. FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE IN MORE DETAIL WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THROUGH THE STATION CHIEF, WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE KCIA. IN THESE DISCUSSIONS WE WILL STATE THAT ENTHUSIASM FOR A CONFIDENTIAL

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SUMMIT MEETING WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GENERATE IN WASHINGTON WITHOUT SOME SPECIFIC ACTION BY THE ROKG, SUCH AS THE REMOVAL OF THE TWO REMAINING EMERGENCY MEASURES AND A GREATER EFFORT TO RELEASE THOSE NOW IN PRISON AS A RESULT OF THESE MEASURES.

4. COMMENT: THERE ARE SOME OBVIOUS RISKS TO EMBARKING ON CONDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A SUMMIT MEETING, BUT I BELIEVE WE MUST GO AHEAD, IF PARK'S REACTIONS FORCE US TO BACKPEDAL ON THE IDEA OF A SUMMIT MEETING, IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL THAT WE NOT PUBLICIZE THIS FACT AND THEREBY CREATE A NEW SOURCE OF TENSION WITH THE ROK. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, IF WE SUCCEED IN CREATING ADEQUATE CONDITIONS FOR A SUMMIT, IT WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE OUR PRESENT POLICY OF NOT CLAIMING CREDIT FOR ACTIONS WHICH PARK TAKES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD.
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